and every step is taken to see that these people do not cross over. We have alerted the concerned States.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Arangil Sreedharan.

SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Sir, the Question Hour is running out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put your question quickly; put a short question.

SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Sir, the honourable Minister has stated that he has alerted the State Governments. He has also said that they come with sophisticated weapons. Therefore, I would like to know what steps are being taken by the Government to see that the State Government forces are equipped with modern and sophisticated weapons.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: Sir, we are trying to modernise the weaponry of the police forces. But the State Governments will have to put up the proposals and then we will do it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over. Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

New Techonogy for Heart Bypass Surgery

*386. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new technology for heart bypass surgery has been developed in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce technology in all major Hospitals of the country so as to prevent large number of deaths occuring due to heart bypass surgery; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) to (d) No new technology for heart bypass surgery has been developed in our country. However, newer techniques and innovations in bypass surgery are better types of conduits using arterial conduits in the form of internal mammary artery as a single implant or double implant. There are other methods like technique of Balloon Angioplasty which has been supplemented by placing of stents (wire mesh) and removal of blocks by atherectomy (block buster) in suitable cases. Also laser angioplasty is being developed. Other major advances are in the Myocardial protection using cold blood cardioplegia as a ante grade or retrograde and also use of warm continuous blood cardioplegia. Balloon Angioplasty has a very high success rate. This facility is now available in a number of hospitals in the country.

Prevention of Tuberculosis

*387. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that B.C.G. vaccine meant for the prevention of Tuberculosis is not found to be effective; and

(b) if so, what efforts are being made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) The data from the Tuberculosis Prevention trial in Tamil Nadu conducted by the Tuberculosis Research Centre (TRC) under I.C.M.R. showed that B.C.G. Vaccination did not offer any protection against development of bacteriologically positive pulmonary tuberculosis in Indian subjects above 5 years of age.

However, as BCG has been known to protect against the development of serious forms to Tuberculosis such as military Tuberculosis and meningitis, the vaccine is provided to infants under

Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) for protection against such forms of Tuberculosis.

Extraction of Crude from Chambang Oil Fields

*388. SHRI KHYOMO LOTHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Petroluem Crude is being extracted from Chambang oil-fields in Wokha District of Nagaland;

(b) what is the quantum of crude being extracted daily and the quantum extracted from these oil fields till date;

(c) whether any royalty is being paid to the land-owners and the Government of Nagaland; if so, what is the rate therefor; and

(d) whether the crude extracted from Chambang oil fields is carried for refining?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About 230 tons daily and 7.85,231 tons till 31-3-91.

(c) No payment has so far been made.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Recession of Gangotri Glacier in the Himalayas

*389. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that human activity is bastening the recession of Gangotri Glacier in the Himalayas as per a news item captioned "Human Activity wrecking glacier" which appeared in the *Times of India* dated 21st November, 1991;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a portion of the glacier crumbled in early October injuring several pilgrims; and

(c) if so, what remedial steps Government propose to take to save the glacier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Various studies have shown that the Gangotri Glacier has been showing receding as well as advancing trends since 1818. It advanced till 1936 and has receded since 1937. As per field observations made from year 1986 to the year 1991, the glacier seems to be positioned almost at the same point suggesting that presently it is in a stage of equilibrium. The effect of human activities on the recession of Gangotri Glacier is not yet established. The general global warming is expected to have some effect on the glacier melting. The global warming is a world-wide phenomenon and it is difficult to predict future trends in regard to the glacier recession on this account.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The following steps are proposed to be taken to protect the ecology of the Gangotri region :

(1) It is proposed to set up the Gangotri National Park under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(2) A Special Area Development Authority has been constituted by the UP Government under the Chairmanship of Commissioner, Garhwal Division, UP to look into and take remedial action in respect of the environmental issues of the area.

(3) The revised Gangotri Development Master Plan will lay special stress on preserving the ecology and discouraging tourism in the area.

(4) The expeditions to the Gangotri area by various organisations and individuals will be discouraged.

(5) It is proposed to restrict the building activity in the area and to continue the ban on commercial felling of trees.